

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/577,399	SHI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Devona E. Faulk	2615	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 1/10/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-11.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 1/10/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The applicant cites a decision in *In re Granmeman* 68 USPQ 2d 1219 (2003) regarding the use of *In re Harza*. The examiner asserts that the decision was based on the use of *In re Harza* as applied to that particular case. The examiner feels the use of *In re Harza* in this case was proper. However, regarding prima facie case of obviousness, the examiner has determined that the rejection falls short of meeting all the elements needed to establish obviousness and that all the claimed elements were not disclosed by the prior art and for this reason has determined that the claims are in allowable form.
2. Claims 12-22 are cancelled.

Reasons For Allowance

3. Claims 1-11 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
Regarding claims 1 and 5, prior art Intel Corporation's AC '97 Component Specification (hereafter Intel) discloses a digital interface (digital interface of figure 1) including a first pair of stereo channels (Figure 1); a first pair of digital to analog converters coupled to the first pair of stereo channels (Figure 1; D/A converters (DACs) which support a stereo PCM out channel); an analog mixer (analog mixing block of Figure 1) outputting an audio program, said mixer coupled to the first pair of digital to analog converters;

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a pair of analog to digital converters (ADCs) coupled to the analog-mixing block (Figure 1). Intel, on page 28, section 5.1 teaches that the digital interface handles multiple inputs and output audio streams. *In Re Harza*, 274 F. 2d 669, 124 USPQ 378 (CCPA 1960) states that the mere duplication of parts has no patentable significance unless a new and unexpected result is produced. Prior art Shuholm (U.S. Patent 6,104,997) discloses programmably changing the assignment of said programs to said ports (abstract, Figure 4). Prior art Kamiya (U.S. Patent 6,438,434) discloses a codec (Figure 1) having two stereo channel pairs, each coupled to an A/D converter (Figure 1 (1-3)). Regarding claim 1, the prior art or combination thereof fails to disclose or make obvious a second pair of D/A converters coupled to the second pair of stereo channels, a pair of analog mixers each outputting a separate audio program, each of said mixers coupled to one of said first and second pair of D/A converters and a pair of A/D converters coupled to the third stereo channel pair. Regarding claim 5, the prior art or combination thereof fails to disclose or make obvious a second pair of D/A converters coupled to another one of said stereo channel pairs, a pair of analog mixers each outputting a separate audio program, and each of said mixers coupled to only one of said first and second pairs of D/A converters. Therefore the prior art of combination thereof fails to disclose or make obvious a codec and a processor-based system as claimed.

Claims 2-4 and 6-11 are allowed due to dependency on claims 1 and 5 respectively.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Devona E. Faulk whose telephone number is 571-272-7515. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 am - 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vivian Chin can be reached on 571-272-7848. The Art Unit location of your application in the USPTO has changed. To aid in correlating any papers for this application, all further correspondence regarding this application should be directed to Art Unit 2615.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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VIVIAN CHIN
SUPERVISOR OF PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600